

with the Congress to address our mutual concerns in seeking solutions to our Nation's problems.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2491, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-124.

Proclamation 6619—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 1993 and 1994

October 28, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security. And for most of us, home and family can, indeed, be counted among our greatest blessings. Tragically, for many Americans, these are blessings that are tarnished by violence and fear.

Domestic violence is more than the occasional family dispute. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, it is the single largest cause of injury to American women, affecting six million of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

In our country, a woman is battered every 15 seconds, and 40 percent of female homicide victims in 1991 were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. Yet unbelievably, more than half of women in need of shelter may be turned away due to a lack of space.

Women are not the only targets. Young children and the elderly are also counted among the victims, and sadly, emotional scars are often permanent.

A coalition of organizations has emerged to directly confront this crisis. Law enforcement officials, those involved with shelters and hotline services, health care providers, the clergy, and other concerned citizens are helping in the effort to end domestic violence. We must recognize the compassion and dedication of these volunteers and professionals, applaud their efforts, and increase

public understanding of this important problem.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1993 and October 1994 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to observe these months by becoming more aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working toward its end, and participating in other appropriate efforts.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 1.

Remarks at the Wall Street Journal Conference on the Americas in New York City

October 28, 1993

Thank you very much, Peter. And thank you for that wonderfully understated observation that your editorial positions don't always agree with mine. [*Laughter*]

I am delighted to be here tonight on a matter on which we both agree. I thank you for sponsoring this meeting, and I was glad to see you and my longtime acquaintance Al Hunt, who invited me. I would say "friend," but it would destroy his reputation in the circle in which we find ourselves. [*Laughter*] He invited me here only because he had been replaced by Alan Murray, and therefore he knew he could not guarantee me one line of good press for accepting this invitation. [*Laughter*] I thank you, I thank William Rhodes and Karen Elliott House and all the others who are responsible for this event.